

**Raywood, Simon**

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**From:** Lidia Arciszewska [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2025 21:48  
**To:** Botley West Solar Farm  
**Subject:** Registration number 20053829

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**A comment on the applicant's response to ExQ2.5.5**

Dear Inspectors,

We disagree with the proposal to retain Field 2.116 within the Botley West Solar Farm boundary for 'community food growing'.

This field is within the conservation area. It provides a setting for Church Hanborough, the historic village located at the top of the hill with St Peter's and St Paul Church Spire, one of the most beautiful church spires in Oxfordshire, overlooking the surrounding landscape. Field 2.116 should remain in agricultural use.

We are strong supporters of community kitchen gardens, supplying food for local consumption. This field is totally unsuitable for such use. Kitchen gardens need polytunnels, sheds for machinery and tools, and areas for produce packaging and distribution. They need to be fenced, and they need access. All these are incompatible with the landscape that needs to 'frame' the conservation area village. Hanborough villages already have a substantial area designated to grow food, such as the allotments between Church Hanborough and Long Hanborough, and a commercial kitchen garden in Long Hanborough, which supplies fresh produce to the local Market Garden in Eynsham, and is farmed by Farmability, a charity that provides work opportunities for vulnerable people. In addition, land has already been allocated for further allotments/kitchen garden within the planned 150 homes new 'North Field' development in Long Hanborough.

Best wishes

Prof David Sherratt FRS  
Dr Lidia Arciszewska  
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